Lifting Up - March

Charlie Lord, Mental Ward Photographer And Activist, Dies At Age 90

UCC Minister, Charlie Lord, a member of Pleasant Hill Community UCC, TN, died following an extended illness on January 30th. As a conscientious objector during World War II Charlie served in a mental hospital in Pennsylvania, where he took photographs that were published in Life magazine. These photos were so scandalous they resulted in changes to the treatment for the mentally ill in the United States. Click here to view some of Charlie's photos.

Johnny Mingus, Retired from Pilgrim Congregational UCC, Chattanooga sends Greetings

Johnny wrote to us from retirement in Florida. He has been diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease, ALS. Wheelchair bound, Johnny continues to be active running the household, being the at home dad for Isaac and Samuel, and speaking as an advocate for ALS patients. A work crew of friends came to assist in making the house accessible following Johnny's confinement to a wheel chair.

Michael Grello a Vital Member of TAP

On Wednesday, March 23, 2010, members of Garden of Grace United Church of Christ in Columbia, SC, celebrated the life of Michael Grello who died earlier that week. "Mike was a vital member of our TAP group from the very beginning," said Jennifer Spears. "He always gave us a different way of looking at things. You could count on him to make you think." Other members of the TAP group, as well as fellow congregants, remembered Mike for his hunger for learning and unwavering commitment to social justice. Mike was not only a Theologian "among" the people, and "of" the people, but always a theologian "for" the people. He passed away during the course on the Hebrew Prophets and Social Transformation, and will be remembered for his own prophetic imagination.

Pictured right is the Garden of Grace TAP group. From left to right: (seated) Mike Grello and Tammy Burnett, (standing) Tameri "Pepper" Brant, Jennifer Spears, and Kevin Eisenhour.

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